

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities  
Minutes of June 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Keith Willette, Chair at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room A. Keith Willette motioned to approve Minutes of May 11, 2005 and was seconded by Loretta Henry. Mr. Willette welcomed incoming Commission member, Moira Miller, also a Town Meeting member..

**Members in Attendance**

Keith Willette, Chair  
Gail Sokolowski, Vice-Chair, outgoing Commission Member  
Barbara Smith, Secretary  
Loretta Henry, Senior Center Liason  
Jerry Berrier, Communication and Web Site Liason  
Moira Miller, Commission Member, newly appointed

**Members not in Attendance**

Dan Morgado

**Guests**

None

**Town Liason Report**

Keith Willette had met with Dan Morgado prior to the Commission meeting. Mr. Willette stated that the noise level regarding the traffic signal in the center of town has been resolved. Concerns of the volume level of the audible signal was now too low was stated by Mr. Willette. Jerry Berrier expressed concern that the audible traffic signal was now not serving its intended purpose. Mr. Berrier and Barbara Smith discussed making a future visit to the center of town to do a "test run".

**Bills**

None

**Member Discussion**

Discussion was started referencing the Nault Study done previously regarding handicapped accessibility for Town buildings. Commission members plan on discussing the results of this survey with Dan Morgado at the next Disability Commission meeting.

The Nault Study prioritized the list of recommendations according to ADA and Architectural Access Board standards. A priority was placed on public buildings such as Town Hall regarding automated entrance doors to building, parking spaces and signage, railings, lowering of counters and bathroom accessibility. It was estimated that \$18,000 - \$20,000 were still left from the budget to spend on accessibility improvements.

Mr. Willette stated he had been contacted by a resident with a visual impairment concerning not being able to access Town notifications (ie: elections, events) since he

didn't read the paper or listen to the cable channel. Keith Willette will plan on notifying the resident of the Town Website availability to access information.

### **Old Business**

Keith Willette stated that Dan Morgado will contact Wayne Sampson regarding the crosswalk between White Hen Pantry and the Post office. Mr. Morgado stated that he had contacted the State and the crosswalk will get repainted with additional signage over the summer months and had spoken with Chief. Sampson regarding traffic enforcement regarding that specific corner.

Mr. Willette stated he had spoken to Dan Morgado regarding the filming and playing of a videotape concerning Disability issues pertaining to residents in the Town of Shrewsbury and Mr. Morgado was agreeable to the Commission purchasing a TV/VCR to play this videotape at local businesses. He had also contacted SPAC who was willing to assist in the making and producing of this videotape. Mr Willette stated that the Massachusetts Office on Disability doesn't have any existing videotapes to loan. Keith had already contacted several local business and they were agreeable to having this videotape playing in their facilities. The Commission would need to supply the TV/VCT, videotapes, and DVD's. The local businesses also stated that they wouldn't be responsible for securing the TV/VCR units and it would be the Commission's responsibility regarding placement and securing of these units.

The Commission discussed topics of interest that would be on the videotape such as, services offered by the RTA van, W/C accessibility into local businesses, information on some specific disabilities and the challenges regarding accessibility. Mr. Berrier suggested a disability awareness topic and what businesses and residents can offer to assist the disability community. The videotape would last approx. 10 minutes and would also be on the local cable station.

### **Phone Log**

Loretta Henry had a message from the International Union of Employees concerning a meeting of various disabled groups to discuss upcoming Legislation.

### **New Business**

Gail Sokolowski discussed the transfer of responsibilities for posting Disability Commission meetings dates and times. This involves getting the forms from the Town Clerk's office and giving 48 hours notice. Also, the Town Annual Report will need to be completed and the message on the Commission's phone line will need to be replaced.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday July 12, 2005 at 7pm in Meeting Room A.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara Smith

